



# News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of Inspector General  
Washington, DC 20546

For Release

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## **Hacker Charged with Computer Crime and Criminal Mischief**

On May 9, 2000, a seventeen year old minor residing in Colorado Springs, Colorado, was charged by the El Paso County Office of the District Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit, with violating one count of the Colorado state Computer Crime statute (Colorado Title 18, Article 5.5, Section 102) and one count of Criminal Mischief (Colorado Title 18, Article 4, Section 501). The minor appeared before Magistrate Judge Scott A. Sells, Colorado Springs, CO.

The seventeen year old admitted responsibility for compromising and defacing numerous Internet web sites, including NASA's Johnson Space Center located in Houston, Texas, and Goddard Space Flight Center located in Greenbelt, Maryland. The number of web sites defaced by this individual totaled over 40, including sites maintained by the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, and various other state and local government sites, as well as numerous commercial and educational sites. The minor's next court appearance is scheduled for May 22, 2000.

Financial damages incurred as a result of these compromises and defacements are estimated to exceed \$30,000. No sensitive or classified computer systems were compromised.

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Complaints May Be Referred To The NASA OIG Hotline At:  
800-424-9183

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations, Computer Crime Division; the Defense Criminal Investigative Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Colorado Springs Police Department, and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Assistant District Attorney Cindy Dang is handling the prosecution of this matter.

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